

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 33148 01 OF 02 181958Z

53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

/102 W

----- 088239

R 181945Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6221

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 33148

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR GEORGE H. WHITE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH HORSEMEAT IMPORTS

REF.: STATE 296534

1. EMBOFF AND ASST. AGATT CALLED ON COLLIN AT DREE PER INSTRUCTION REFTL AND LEFT COPY OF TALKING POINTS PAPER. COLLIN COMMENTED THAT GOF HAD IN FACT DISCRIMINATED IN FAVOR OF U.S. HORSEMEAT, SINCE POLES HAD AGREED TO REDUCE EXPORTS OF LIVE HORSES BY 30 PER CENT. WE NOTED THAT IMPORTERS HAD TOLD US THEY COULD GET ALL THE LIVE HORSES THEY WANTED, AND WE WOULD WANT TO LOOK AT THE ACTUAL IMPORT FIGURES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER WHICH COLLIN PROMISED TO SUPPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ASSURED  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 33148 01 OF 02 181958Z

US THAT LICENSING PROCEDURE WOULD BE TERMINATED

DECEMBER 31. WE SAID WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM EARLY IN 1976 SO THAT WE COULD AVOID A RECURRENCE OF THE PROBLEM AND COLLIN WAS AGREEABLE.

2. PRIOR TO MEETING AT DREE, ASST. AGATT MET WITH PICARD AND PORRY OF MINAG AS COURTESY TO ADVISE THEM OF U.S. POSITION AND TO DELIVER TALKING PAPER. PICARD, WHO IS ACTUALLY PERSON MOST INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN CONTROLS AT WORKING LEVEL, MADE POINTS THAT U.S. HAD LITTLE TO OBJECT TO SINCE IT HAD STEADILY INCREASED ITS HORSEMEAT EXPORTS TO FRANCE AND ALSO THAT U.S. HAD BEEN OVERLY INFLUENCED BY ELEMENTS OF THE VERY COMPETITIVE HORSE MEAT TRADE IN FRANCE. WE RESPONDED TO FIRST POINT THAT FACT THAT U.S. EXPORTS INCREASING WAS NOT REALLY RELEVANT IN THAT PATTERN OF TRADE WILL CHANGE DEPENDING ON QUALITY, PRICE, SUPPLY, DEMAND, ETC. OUR REPLY TO SECOND POINT WAS THAT WE WERE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO GOF TO PROTECT LEGITIMATE U.S. RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY GATT ARRANGEMENTS AND THAT WE PERCEIVED WE WERE BEING TREATED IN A DISCRIMINATORY MANNER. PICARD INTIMATED THAT, GIVEN LIMITED CONTROLS IMPOSED ONLY DURING LAST QUARTER OF YEAR AND FACT THAT U.S. ALLOWED 1,200 MT A MONTH FOR EACH OF THREE MONTHS (650 MT FOR CANADA AND 450 FOR POLAND), HE FELT IT WAS UNWISE TO MAKE ISSUE OF MATTER SINCE FINAL RESULT COULD BE INCREASED EXPORTS OF HORSES AND HORSEMEAT FROM POLAND WHICH COULD ARBITRARILY SET FAVORABLE PRICE. HE ALSO INTIMATED THAT IMPORTERS, WHOSE PROFITS ARE REPORTEDLY TWO FRANCS PER KILO ON IMPORTED HORSEMEAT, MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO CLOSE SCRUTINY. ON FAVORABLE SIDE WAS PICARD STATEMENT THAT GOF WAS SEARCHING FOR SOME OTHER WORKABLE PLAN TO GUARANTEE PRICES FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCERS DURING FINAL QUARTER.

3. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH COLLIN, DETAILS WERE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 33148 02 OF 02 182001Z

53

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TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 33148

DISCUSSED WITH COLOMBEL. HE SUGGESTED THAT PROBLEM INVOLVED ONLY SMALL GROUP OF BRITTANY PRODUCERS, WHO RAISED HORSES EXPRESSLY FOR MEAT TRADE. HE THOUGHT THAT PLAN MIGHT BE FOUND TO HELP SUPPORT PRICES FOR THIS GROUP WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED THIS YEAR. HE ADDED THAT RESTRICTIONS WERE IMPOSED ON HORSEMEAT IMPORTS FROM U.S. AND POLAND (NO MENTION WAS MADE OF CANADA) BECAUSE THESE WERE MAJOR SUPPLIERS AND IT WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT TO REGULATE IMPORTS FROM COUNTRIES EXPORTING SMALLER AMOUNTS OF HORSEMEAT TO FRENCH MARKET. HE ALSO SAID THAT POLAND HAD VOLUNTARILY AGREED TO LIMIT LIVE HORSE EXPORTS TO FRENCH MARKET DURING CRITICAL PERIOD. FINALLY, COLOMBEL MAINTAINED THAT GATT BINDS TARIFF OF BOTH HORSEMEAT AND LIVE HORSES INTO FRANCE BUT THAT GATT UNDERSTANDINGS PROVIDE ONLY FOR UNRESTRICTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 33148 02 OF 02 182001Z

QUANTITATIVE ENTRY OF LIVE HORSES AND LEAVES QUESTION OF UNRESTRICTED QUANTITATIVE ENTRY OF HORSEMEAT UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT. OVER-ALL TONE OF DREE DISCUSSIONS WAS STRONGLY THAT OF EAGERNESS TO FIND SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. WHILE SEEKING TO FIND WAY OF SATISFYING DOMESTIC FARM INTERESTS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF GATT BINDING.

RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** IMPORTS, HORSES, IMPORT CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750440-0653  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 23 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRENCH HORSEMEAT IMPORTS  
**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006